

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2843

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

JCS WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 6059

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, OCON, AWACS, MILI, NO

SUBJECT: AWACS

1. DRUING CALL ON DEFENSE UNDER SECRETARY HOLST, DCM RAISED QUESTION
OF AWACS AIDE MEMOIRE PRESENTED TO MINISTER OF DEFNSE HANSEN
ON NOV 3. HOLST SAID GON HAD NOT RESPONDED TO DATE BECUASE THEY
WERE IN MIDDLE OF PREPARING THEIR POSITION FOR DECEMBER NATO
MINISTERIALS.

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2. HOWEVER HOLST ANTICIPATED THAT GON ANSWER WOULD NOT BE NO ALTHOUGH, HE DID NOT FORESEE THAT THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO TAKE UP QUESTIONS OF DETAIL AT MINISTERIAL. TWO FACTORS WHICH MIGHT, HE THOUGHT, MOVE THE GON AND OTHER ALLIES TOWARD ADOPTING A FIRMER, MORE PRECISE POSITION ON AWACS, WERE A DECISION BY THE UK AND FRG TO ADOPT AWACS AND AN INDICATION THAT PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER'S ADMINISTRATION WOULD CONTINUE TO GIVE THE PROGRAM PRIORITY.

3. HOLST DID SAY THAT NEW COST SHARING AND SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS DATA DISCUSSED RECENTLY IN NATO WERE MORE ATTRACTIVE TO THE GON, PARTICULARLY THE POSTPONEMENT OF PAYMENTS UNTIL THE EARLY 1980'S. THE COST OF PARTICIPATING IN AWACS WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF NORWAY'S OVERALL DEFENSE EXPENDITURES OVER THE NEXT PLANNING CYCLE (TO 1980) AND WOULD THUS HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE GON AND THE STARTING IN RELATION TO OTHER PLANNED MAJOR EQUIPMENT PURCHASES LIKE THE F-16 AND THE ROLAND. IN HOLST'S VIEW, THOUGH NORWAY'S NEW SHARE OF PAYMENTS (\$29 MILLION) WAS NOT EXCESSIVE, IT COULD NOT BE SEEN IN ISOLATION FROM THESE OTHER OUTLAYS.

4. HOLST STRESSED THAT GON IS PRESENTLY CONSIDERING ONLY THE FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF AWACS. THEY HOPE TO DEFER CONSIDERATION OF THE MODALITIES IN WHICH AWACS WOULD BE DEPLOYED, ESPECIALLY ISSUES SUCH AS FLIGHT PATTERNS AND CREW COMPOSITION. HOLST SAID THAT THESE QUESTIONS WOULD HAVE CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL SENSITIVITY HERE, ESPECIALLY IN RELATION TO THE USSR. HE HOPED GON COULD ADDRESS MODALITIES ISSUES AT A TIME NOT INCONVENIENT TO NORWAY'S ONGOING PROBLEMS WITH THE USSR.

5. COMMENT: HOLST'S ATTITUDE AND REACTION PARALLELED CLOSELY THOSE OF BELGIAN MOD VAN DEN BOEYANTS (BRUSSELS 11396); TO WITH THE DOWN STREAM PAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR NORWAY WAS NOT UNATTRACTIVE BUT NOT SO DAZZLING AS TO PUSH THEM OFF THEIR AFTER-YOU-ALPHONSE POSTURE. ANDERS

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